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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/527,467	03/17/2000	Naoji Shibasaki	Q58416	2781

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EXAMINER

TRAN, DOUGLAS Q

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2624

DATE MAILED: 01/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/527,467

Applicant(s)

SHIBASAKI, NAOJI

Examiner

Douglas Q. Tran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 November 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 8, 15 and 17-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8, 15, 17-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

DOUGLAS Q. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Douglas Q. Tran

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 8, and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,195,694 B1) and further in view of Narayen et al. (US Patent No. 6,035,323).

As to claim 8, Chen teaches an image data management system (a server for reconfiguring control of a subset of devices on one or more kiosks, a server system “fig. 1” used to process image data from input/output devices 130 which reads on the claimed “an image data management system”), comprises:

a plurality of printing stations (i.e., several kiosks 100) with functions to read digital image data (col. 4, lines 47-48: digital image data from CD Rom player can be read by the computer; col. 4, lines 55-56: the video conference system with cameras via the Internet, col. 15, lines 31-38: the digital image data from the floppy disk can be read by the computer), to print the data (API functions 680 invokes laser printer or media printer 109, col. 4, lines 34, 39) by performing necessary image processing (col. 17, lines 28-32; fig. 6, it is noted that the image data should be processed before being printed) and to transmit or receive the image data (fig. 1,

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col. 4, lines 28-32, 55-60: the image data can be received and transmitted via the network; and
col. 15, lines 31-38);

a management system (i.e., a server 195 in fig. 1) connected to each printing station (each kiosk 100) via a network (150) and used for identifying reconfiguration application files of each printing station (each kiosk 100) and for distributing application files to each printing station (col. 6, lines 20-29);

wherein the plurality of printing stations further comprises:

a currency processing unit (i.e., one of input/output devices such as a cash dispenser 130 in fig. 1), wherein the currency processing unit identifies currency inserted into the system, processes a cost to be charged to a client, and returns currency to the client (a cash dispenser disclosed on col. 4, lines 42-45; col. 9, lines 2-7, col. 14, lines 46-57, where inherently one would recognize that the appropriate currency is returned to the user based on the fees and actual amount rendered by the user of the kiosk).

Although Chen teaches a database on other networks server for storing information (col. 15, lines 54-60), Chen does not explicitly teaches the database for storing the image data being transmitted from each printing station.

In a similar field of endeavor, Narayan teaches a server (111 in fig. 2) for turning the image data, being transmitted from each printing station to the management system (i.e., the Internet service providers ISPs 105,107 and the Web Server 109 in fig. 2, col. 4, lines 34-36), to a database (110 in fig. 2) and for storing the data (col. 4, lines 54-57).

Therefore, It would have been obvious to modify Chen by providing the additional image data from the printing station to be stored in the database, as taught by Narayen for the purpose of archiving the history information of each the user's image data.

As to claim 17, Narayen teaches the digital image data received from digital camera (201 in fig. 4).

As to claim 18, Narayen teaches the image processing comprises resolving a back righted photograph, correcting automatic color for adjusting technical peculiarities of a digital camera, correcting shadow, correcting color balance, correcting photographic failure, enlarging or reducing a size of image data, and removing noise (i.e., a software application such as the Photoshop from Adobe systems, col. 1, lines 24-25 and 59 and 271 in fig. 6B, has enough functions for editing any digital image data)

As to claim 19, Chen teaches the management system comprises a host computer and wherein the management system manages the status of each of the plurality of printing stations, monitors remote controlled maintenance of each of the plurality of printing stations, and monitors operating conditions of each of the plurality of printing stations (col. 6, lines 20-29 and col. 7, lines 25-47).

3. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Narayen et al. (US Patent No. 6,035,323) and further in view of Kohda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,249,806 B1).

As to claim 15, Narayen teaches an image data management system (103 in fig. 2), comprising:

a plurality of printing stations (i.e., the client computer systems 121, 125, 135, 137 in fig. 2) with functions to read digital image data (201 in fig. 4, col. 6, lines 30-34), to print the data by

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performing necessary image processing (it is noted that any computer system, which be considered as a printing system, has the ability of performing the printing the image data “col. 1, line 38 and col. 5, lines 51-52”) and to transmit or receive image data (i.e., a modem 123 among of the modems and LAN bus enables to transmit or receive image data);

a management system (i.e., the Internet service providers ISPs 105,107 and the Web Server 109 in fig. 2, col. 4, lines 34-36) connected to each printing system (i.e., 121 in fig. 2) via a network (i.e., the Internet 103 in fig. 2) and used for identifying management data of each printing station (col. 4, lines 27-32 and step of 281 in fig. 7 describes that TCP/IP and HTTP protocols used in the Internet with providers ISP for connecting to each client and receiving the image data from each client. Thus, the management system such as ISPs and the Web server 109 would be used for identifying management data) and for distributing necessary data to each printing station (col. 4, lines 34-43); and

a server (111 in fig. 2) for turning the image data, being transmitted from each printing station to the management system, to a database (110 in fig. 2) and for storing the data (col. 4, lines 54-57).

Narayan discloses where attribute information comprises a name, as exhibited in Fig. 11. However, Narayan fails to specifically disclose where the attribute information further comprises an age, an occupation, an address and a telephone number of a user. However, the examiner maintains that providing such attribute information in a computer system was well known, as taught by Kohda.

In a similar field of endeavor, Kohda discloses an apparatus and method for providing information about two-way computer communication services. Kohda further discloses where

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attribute information of a user of a computer system comprises an age, an occupation, an address and a telephone number (col. 9, lines 34-52 and col. 7, lines 22-35).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to modify Narayen by providing the additional attribute information, as taught by Kohda for the purpose of alleviating potential misidentification of users based on similar attribute information.

Conclusion

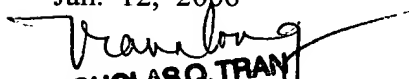
4. Upon further consideration, a **new ground(s) of rejection** to claim 8 is made in view of Chen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,195,694 B1) and Narayen et al. (US Patent No. 6,035,323). This action is made **non-final**.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas Q. Tran whose telephone number is (703) 305-4857 or E-mail address is Douglas.tran@uspto.gov.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Douglas Q. Tran

Jan. 12, 2006


DOUGLAS Q. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER